


		NTSB ID: DEN02LA036		Aircraft Registration Number: N997GM	
		Occurrence Date: 04/04/2002		Most Critical Injury: None	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Leadville	State CO	Zip Code 80461	Local Time 1400	Time Zone MST	
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Bell		Model/Series 206B-III		Type of Aircraft Helicopter	
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On April 4, 2002, approximately 1400 mountain standard time, N997GM, a Bell 206B-III helicopter, operated by AeroWest Helicopters, Inc., of Corrales, New Mexico, was destroyed when it struck terrain during an uncontrolled descent 5 miles north of Leadville, Colorado. Both the commercial pilot and a passenger received minor injuries. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed for the aerial observation flight being conducted under Title 14 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 91. The flight originated in Eagle, Colorado, approximately 1330.</p> <p>According to a written statement given to the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the pilot said he was patrolling a power line between Leadville and Breckenridge. He was about 100 feet to the right of the power line, flying east into a 10 to 18 knot headwind. Airspeed was between 70 and 80 knots, altitude was 400 feet above the ground, and power was between 70 to 80 percent torque. The power line turned north towards Mosquito Pass. As the pilot started the turn, a "strong downdraft pushed the helicopter" towards the ground. The LOW ROTOR RPM horn sounded and the pilot lowered the collective control to regain rotor rpm, and simultaneously moved the cyclic control forward and to the right to avoid the power lines. After rotor rpm was regained, the pilot increased torque to 100 to 103 percent "to keep the helicopter flying." He said the downdraft continued to push the helicopter towards the ground and the LOW ROTOR RPM horn continued sounding. The pilot said he "decreased collective with forward airspeed with the cyclic" in an attempt to fly out of the downdraft, but to no avail. The helicopter's aft skids struck snow-covered terrain and "dug in." The helicopter rolled "once or twice" and came to rest on the underside of the fuselage.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

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Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type: Unknown					
Runway Surface Condition: Unknown					
Type Instrument Approach: Unknown					
VFR Approach/Landing: Forced Landing					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Bell		Model/Series 206B-III		Serial Number 2366	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal					
Landing Gear Type: Skid					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 5	Certified Max Gross Wt. 3200 LBS		Number of Engines: 1	
Engine Type: Turbo Shaft	Engine Manufacturer: Rolls Royce/Allison		Model/Series: 250-C20B	Rated Power: 420 HP	
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection 100 Hour	Date of Last Inspection 01/2002	Time Since Last Inspection 24 Hours		Airframe Total Time 8890 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? Yes	ELT Operated? Yes	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? Yes			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner Copter Lease LLC		Street Address 4701 Hawkins St. NE			
		City Albuquerque	State NM	Zip Code 87109	
Operator of Aircraft AeroWest Management Services, Inc.		Street Address P.O. Box 508			
		City Corrales	State NM	Zip Code 87048	
Operator Does Business As: AeroWest Helicopters, Inc.			Operator Designator Code: PBKG		
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:					
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi					
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate: Aircraft External Load		
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation					
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Aerial Observation					
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First Pilot Information																																																																																			
Name		City		State	Date of Birth	Age																																																																													
On File		On File		On File	On File	43																																																																													
Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Right	Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot		Certificate Number: On File																																																																															
Certificate(s): Commercial																																																																																			
Airplane Rating(s): Single-engine Land																																																																																			
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter																																																																																			
Instrument Rating(s): Helicopter																																																																																			
Instructor Rating(s): None																																																																																			
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? No				Current Biennial Flight Review? 01/2002																																																																															
Medical Cert.: Class 2		Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.			Date of Last Medical Exam: 11/2001																																																																														
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>- Flight Time Matrix</th> <th>All A/C</th> <th>This Make and Model</th> <th>Airplane Single Engine</th> <th>Airplane Multi-Engine</th> <th>Night</th> <th colspan="2">Instrument Actual Simulated</th> <th>Rotorcraft</th> <th>Glider</th> <th>Lighter Than Air</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Time</td> <td>2453</td> <td>624</td> <td>350</td> <td></td> <td>48</td> <td></td> <td>72</td> <td>2103</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pilot In Command(PIC)</td> <td>2203</td> <td>324</td> <td>300</td> <td></td> <td>48</td> <td></td> <td>72</td> <td>1753</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instructor</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 90 Days</td> <td>104</td> <td>52</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>104</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 30 Days</td> <td>81</td> <td>38</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>81</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 24 Hours</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>							- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument Actual Simulated		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air	Total Time	2453	624	350		48		72	2103			Pilot In Command(PIC)	2203	324	300		48		72	1753			Instructor											Last 90 Days	104	52						104			Last 30 Days	81	38						81			Last 24 Hours		3						3		
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Seatbelt Used? Yes		Shoulder Harness Used? Yes		Toxicology Performed? No		Second Pilot? No																																																																													
Flight Plan/Itinerary																																																																																			
Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR																																																																																			
Departure Point		State		Airport Identifier	Departure Time	Time Zone																																																																													
Eagle		CO		EGE	1330	MST																																																																													
Destination		State		Airport Identifier																																																																															
Leadville		CO		LXV																																																																															
Type of Clearance: None																																																																																			
Type of Airspace: Class G																																																																																			
Weather Information																																																																																			
Source of Briefing: Flight Service Station																																																																																			
Method of Briefing: Aircraft Radio; Telephone																																																																																			


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		Occurrence Type: Accident	

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
LXV	1356	MST	9926 Ft. MSL	5 NM	360 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: None			Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 30.25 "Hg
Temperature: 9 °C	Dew Point: -12 °C	Wind Direction: 340		Density Altitude: 11243 Ft.	
Wind Speed: 10	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:			
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: None					

Accident Information					
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed		Aircraft Fire: None		Aircraft Explosion: None	
Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil					
- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot				1	1
Second Pilot					
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants					
Other Crew					
Passengers				1	1
- TOTAL ABOARD -				2	2
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -				2	2

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Administrative Information		
Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) Arnold W. Scott		
Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation: John J Muldoon Aviation Safety Inspector - Airworthiness FAA Flight Standards District Office 26805 E. 68 Ave., Suite 200 Denver, CO 80249		
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